

immersed in a rigorous academic program that provides a solid foundation in math, reading, writing, and analytical reasoning. It is hardly surprising that Berkeley-Carroll was awarded the Federal Blue Ribbon Award for their sincere commitment to academic strength and civic leadership.

As a resident of Park Slope, I have witnessed the positive contributions made by Berkeley-Carroll to the neighborhoods throughout Brooklyn. Students are given a special experience that will stay with them their entire lives. I rise to honor this landmark institution and urge all of my colleagues to recognize this Brooklyn-based school as a national leader in education.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS McDANIEL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker Lois McDaniel is a native of Batesburg, SC and embodies the philosophy that hard work pays big dividends. Lois attended South Carolina State College and Pace University's evening program. She currently serves as the calendar information officer for the department of city planning and secretary to the New York City Planning Commission for land use and zoning matters. In her capacity she conducts televised public hearings at city hall for the New York City Planning Commission.

Prior to joining the department of city planning, Ms. McDaniel served as executive secretary to the president of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corp. A homeowner in East New York since 1969, Lois has been involved in numerous civic activities within the Community Board 5 area. Her efforts have supported senior citizens, block associations, the Democratic Club of East New York, and Union 1180.

Ms. McDaniel is actively involved in food drives for City Harvest's food distribution program for the homeless, and is also involved in numerous other charitable efforts. I am proud to acknowledge her efforts to serve the people of Brooklyn.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS OF LT.C. AARON A. CRAYCROFT

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to relate a very inspiring story. It is not an unfamiliar plot, but one that always reassures my faith in the American dream and the work ethic that has made this country the greatest in the world. Aaron A. Craycroft of Macon County, IL, the northernmost county of Illinois' 19th district, has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander in the Navy Air Corps, and I salute his ascension to this position.

Military service in the United States has always been a position of honor for those who have served, and often represents the oppor-

tunity for personal betterment that is inherent in the idea of the United States. This has proved to be the case for Aaron. He enlisted in the Navy in 1974 without a college degree. Since then he has devoted his life to serving our country to the best of his ability, and his dedication has provided much in return. Aaron has traveled the world via aircraft carrier, learned the highly specialized skill of aviation electronics, and after putting that training to use repairing A-6 fighters, he is now the administrator of the school where he learned the craft. From humble origins, Lieutenant Commander Craycroft has achieved success through 20 years of hard work. His example is a model for the youth of today, for there are no easy answers, no quick fixes, and no substitute for giving your all. The path to opportunity and fulfillment exists if you are willing to give of yourself.

Mr. Speaker, Aaron's story is especially meaningful to me, because at 17, I also entered the armed services without having been to college, and I will never forget what that opportunity has meant to my life. I would like to thank Lieutenant Commander Craycroft for his devotion to his country's security. I am honored to represent him and his family in the U.S. Congress.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY 1996

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the promotion of peace and justice, along with long term and shared economic development on the beloved Emerald Isle, are important items of concern to millions of Americans of Irish descent, particularly at this time of year as we all join again in celebrating yet another glorious St. Patrick's Day.

These important issues of peace and justice also concern all of Ireland's many friends here and around the globe, especially now once again with the misguided return to violence by some few frustrated with the pace of the peace process and needed change on the ground in the north of Ireland today.

Ireland and its warm, generous people have long had a fond affection for America, as President Clinton learned when he triumphantly toured the whole island late last year. There we all witnessed first hand, the genuine warmth and love of the Irish people for America, and the respect for the President's outstanding leadership in promoting peace on the island.

The President has done much through his effort at promoting peace in Ireland to in some small way, pay back that nation that has also given America so much. With the current breakdown in the progress toward lasting peace, it is time for the President to take the next step, and appoint that promised peace envoy, which many believe is needed to get the process back on track.

Former Senator George Mitchell, who served so well as head of the International Body dealing with the arms issue, would be an ideal candidate for the position, in my opinion. I urge the President to make such an appointment of a peace envoy at this critical time in Irish history.

The tragic and misguided returned to violence recently by some who mistakenly believe that justice can be obtained through terrorism, death, and destruction, must end. The IRA cease fire must be restored, the bombings ended, and peaceful means and dialog resumed immediately, or the nationalist cause will suffer even greater damage in world opinion.

As we once again examine at this particular time of year, the impact the Irish have had on America, and why the U.S. has a responsibility to remain engaged in the efforts to bring about lasting peace and justice in Ireland, it is worth remembering their many sacrifices and contributions to our great Nation.

President Clinton addressing a joint session of the Irish parliament in Dublin on his trip last year, mentioned the 200,000 Irish who bravely fought for the Union cause in our civil war. Many Irish officers and soldiers also distinguished themselves in ending British rule over the colonies, during the earlier American revolution.

Once here in this great land, and taking full advantage of the American dream, the Irish fought and died for this Nation, and excelled in every way and walk of American life. Few from the World War II generation can forget, a young Irish lad named Audie Murphy who on the battlefields of eastern France, became one of the Nation's most decorated veterans. He received the Medal of Honor and 27 other decorations, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Croix de Guerre with Palm.

In fact, since Congress established the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1863, there have been a remarkable 250 or more Irish who have earned this Nation's highest honor. No other nationality, even comes close to that astonishing record of valor and courage in service of this great Nation.

The sons and daughters of Ireland, their families and many friends here in America, are all grateful for our Government and its leaders' efforts, from both parties, to help pay back those remarkable sacrifices. The President has worked hard to bring peace and justice to their ancestral homeland, which every Irishman holds near and dear to his or her heart. We must all continue to work to keep peace in Ireland on the top of America's foreign policy agenda today, as I and others will do here in the Congress.

While helping make America great, the Irish have never forgotten, from whence they proudly came, as anyone who has marched in, or witnessed the grand Saint Patrick's Day parade down 5th Avenue in New York City each year. Today, more than 40 million Americans have ancestral links to Ireland, many as a result of the large immigration that followed the great famine, as well as the years before and after, that terrible and destructive human tragedy.

This year's Saint Patrick's parade Grand Marshal is William Flynn the CEO of Mutual of America in New York City. He is a great man, duly deserving of this high honor, who has dedicated himself to peace in Ireland, and has worked tirelessly to bring about lasting peace and justice, as have so many of his fellow Irish Americans.

The Irish in America, and their many friends have long played a role in assuring that our Government and elected leaders have not forgotten that the problems of Ireland did not end